

From: Jeffrey Houchins
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Antitrust

Greetings,

While admittedly I am no great fan of Microsoft, I believe a free market economy depends on government staying out of the picture as much as possible. As a consumer I believe Microsoft has the right to bundle their products however they see fit. Let the market decide these matters. This situation reminds me a bit of Wal-Mart going into a rural community and putting all the Ma and Pa stores out of business. There are both good and bad effects to this, but a free market economy depends on freedom. Ultimately, me the consumer decides where to spend my money.

Here is my tale of Microsoft bundling causing me to change from Netscape Navigator to Windows Internet Explorer (IE). My first computer had Navigator on it and I loved it and resisted switching to IE simply because I was used to Netscape and had no reason to change. That is until I bought a microsoft game that required Windows to be the default browser if I wanted to play the game over the internet. Although I went kicking and screaming, I had no choice but to switch over to Windows IE.

Now that I am used to Windows IE I like it just fine. Netscape never made any games, or contributed in any other way to my internet usage. Microsoft has, and I believe that gives them the right to flex their free market muscles from time to time.

Netscape is a fine product, but if they plan on competing with the big boys they will have to depend on innovation and imagination, rather than turning to sniveling and whining to big brother to fight their battles for them. Govenment interference should be kept to a minimum, not only in this matter, but in all matters. Freedom depends on it.

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